WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.        A stream server apparatus connected to client apparatuses and a firewall apparatus for inhibiting a packet from illegally accessing a particular network, said stream server apparatus distributing stream data to said client apparatuses and comprising:

a first interface which transmits and receives a packet to and from the client apparatus belonging to the particular network without via the firewall apparatus, and transmits and receives a packet to and from the client apparatus belonging to a network different from the particular network via the firewall apparatus;

a second interface which transmits and receives a packet to and from the client apparatus belonging to the network different from the particular network without via the firewall apparatus, said second interface being connected to a second network;

a stream transport management module which specifies said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute and a type of a communication protocol of the client apparatus; and

a process module which executes a communication process based on the communication protocol relative to the client apparatus via the specified interface.

2.        The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said process module executes a stream

data distribution process based on a same communication protocol for both the client apparatus belonging to the particular network and the client apparatus belonging to the network different from the particular network.

3.        The stream server apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said communication protocol uses a user datagram protocol.

4.        The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a control request reception unit which notifies an ID of the interface specified by said stream transport management module to the client apparatus.

5.        The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said first interface, if the client apparatus belongs to the network different from the particular network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses and if the communication protocol includes a reception process of a packet on a side of the stream server apparatus.

6.        The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said second interface, if the client apparatus belongs to the network different from the particular network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses and if the communication protocol does not include a reception process of a packet on a side of the stream server apparatus.

7.        The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said second interface, if the client apparatus belongs to the network different from the particular network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses and if the communication protocol is a stream data distributing protocol.

8.        The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said first interface, if the client apparatus belongs to the same network as a network to which the stream server apparatus belongs.

9.        The stream server apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control request reception unit notifies the client apparatus of the ID of the specified interface, said ID being not a local ID distinguishable by the particular network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses but a global ID capable of being translated into the local ID by a network relay apparatus en route to the client apparatus requested stream data distribution.

10.       The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said process module comprises:

        a stream transport processing unit for executing stream data distribution to the client apparatus based upon one stream data distribution protocol; and

        a bandwidth management processing unit for

executing bandwidth control communication based on a
control program for controlling a bandwidth of the
stream data distribution.

11.      A network attached storage system for
managing a file system and distributing stream data
stored in a storage unit to client apparatuses via
networks, said network attached storage system being
connected to the client apparatuses and a firewall
apparatus for preventing a packet from illegally
accessing a particular network and comprising:

a first interface for transmitting and
receiving a packet to and from the client apparatus
belonging to the particular network without involvement
of the firewall apparatus and for transmitting and
receiving a packet to and from the client apparatus
belonging to a network different from the particular
network via the firewall apparatus;

a second interface for transmitting and
receiving a packet to and from the client apparatus
belonging to the network different from the particular
network without involvement of the firewall apparatus,
said second interface being connected to a second
network; and

a process module for executing a
communication process, via an interface identified in
accordance with a network attribute and a type of a
communication protocol of the client apparatus and
based on the communication protocol, relative to the

client apparatus.

12.     A program to be executed by a stream server apparatus connected to client apparatuses and a firewall apparatus which prevents a packet from illegally accessing a particular network, said stream server apparatus distributing stream data to the client apparatuses and comprising a first interface which transmits and receives a packet to and from the client apparatus belonging to the particular network without involvement of the firewall apparatus and transmits and receives a packet to and from the client apparatus belonging to a network different from the particular network via the firewall apparatus, and a second interface which transmits and receives a packet to and from the client apparatus belonging to the network different from the particular network without involvement of the firewall apparatus, said second interface being connected to a second network and said program comprising:

a stream transport management step of identifying said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute and a type of a communication protocol of the client apparatus; and

a step of executing a communication process based on the communication protocol relative to the client apparatus via the identified interface.